

**A COUNTERFEITER CAUGHT.****A Strong Case is Being Made Against R. L. Baca at Santa Fe.**

Deputy Sheriff Page Otero, who in conjunction with Sheriff Cunningham has been personally conducting the investigation of the R. L. Baca counterfeiting scheme, has during the past few days discovered a number of important facts as to the matter that weave a heavy network of proof around the defendant.

Mr. Otero's attention was first called to the probability of Baca's connection with the counterfeiting enterprise by reason of his intimacy with W. B. Lockett, alias Fisher, whose record as a member of the El Paso and Las Cruces bad money outfit was known to the officers of the law. In addition his suspicions were aroused when a party in this city whose name is not now in evidence, informed Mr. Otero that Mr. Baca had been investing heavily in Russian metal, antimony, copper, block tin, Babbitt's metal and similar material. In purchasing these things Baca stated that he expected to use them in plating spoons which he was to sell the public as silver.

A close watch was immediately instituted by Mr. Otero, resulting in the arrest last Friday evening. Since that time numerous further evidences of the guilt of the accused have been found on a careful search of his rooms. In the ashes of the fireplace, skillfully hid away, were found the dies and moulds so necessary in the business. In addition to the valise, whose contents led to Baca's arrest, a trunk and a couple of boxes have been found in the room with such articles in them as black sand, moulds and counterfeiting metal. A galvanic battery, which was doubtless used in the scientific department of the enterprise, was also found.

The officers also have several witnesses by whom they expect to prove that Baca passed or attempted to pass bad money. Among his intended victims are two Chinamen here who had two counterfeit dollars given them by Baca. They soon discovered the deception, however, and having hunted him up made him give good money in exchange. He also attempted to pass a number of bad dollars at C. L. Bishop's store, but was turned down in the attempt.

Baca's arrest recalls attention to the scheme he worked on a California man a while back, when the latter entrusted him with \$4,000 with which to purchase silver bullion on the Mexican border for shipment to California. Baca, it is said, took the \$4,000, coolly constructed a lead pig, washed it with silver, and shipped it to his employer. The officers say that there is an indictment against Baca for this offense now pending in California. Mr. Otero has received information from

Secret Service Agent Walker that he will be in Santa Fe in the near future to look into the bad money schemes now being worked here and elsewhere in New Mexico.—New Mexican.

The public school here will open again next Wednesday for the winter term.

Clark Rodgers was out on the Sapello two days last week and brought in four deer, one of which weighed 147 pounds.

During the past week the merchants of this place have had a good holiday trade. There appears to be considerable money left in the country yet.

The officers recently elected by Silver City chapter R. A. M., Silver City lodge A. F. & A. M. and Silver City chapter O. E. S., will be installed tomorrow evening.

The new county officers will probably take possession of the offices to which they have been elected next Wednesday. None of them seem to be disposed to take possession on New Year's day.

Last Saturday morning R. H. Speed was fined \$25 and costs by Justice Givens for hanging meat out in front of his market on Bullard street. The complaint was made by Mr. Jones under an old law of the territory. Mr. Speed has the distinction of being the first person fined in this city for violating the provisions of this law, but, of course the justice of the peace had no other alternative but to impose the fine after the complaint had been made. Just why such a law should have been passed is not apparent.

A telegram from Pueblo, Colo., states that the notorious Vicente Silva was captured there yesterday evening by Deputy U. S. Marshal Loomis. Silva was the leader of the gang of cutthroats which infested San Miguel county in 1892-3. He led the gang that robbed Frank's store and the postoffice at Los Alamos, and on February 7, 1893, in Las Vegas, stabbed to death Gabriel Sandoval and threw his body into a vault. In May last Gov. Thornton offered a reward of \$500 for his capture and delivery to the sheriff of San Miguel county.—New Mexican.

**A Contest Instituted.**

G. W. Miles, after having thoroughly investigated the late election in Dona Ana county, decided to bring a contest against J. A. Ancheta, the republican candidate for member of the council from Grant and Dona Ana counties.

For some weeks after the election Mr. Miles was of the opinion that he had been fairly beaten in the contest and was willing to abide the result as it appeared from the face of the returns, but since proceedings were commenced in Dona Ana county by some of the other candidates and the rottenness of the political methods down there were partially exposed, Mr. Miles commenced to investigate matters for himself. He found that in many instances, citizens of Mexico had voted and that the number of illegal ballots cast was far in excess of the apparent majority of Mr. Ancheta in the two counties. As soon as he became thoroughly satisfied that he was honestly entitled to a seat in the council he took steps to secure that which rightly belonged to him. He accepts the returns in this county as canvassed by the board of county commissioners but he is not willing to have his opponent take his seat when a large number of the votes cast for him were cast by citizens of Mexico who had no right whatever to vote at an election in New Mexico.

Mr. Miles is in earnest and confidently expects to get his seat in the council.

The board of county commissioners will meet on Friday and Saturday of this week and will have another meeting on the 2nd of next month.

Prof. W. H. Decker was over from Central last Saturday investing the proceeds of an entertainment given recently at Central and Fort Bayard in Christmas things for the little folks.

Iron shipments from Hanover were discontinued last week and a number of miners and teamsters have been thrown out of employment. Shipments of ore from Hanover have averaged considerably more than a hundred tons a day for several months. The shut down came without warning and it is uncertain how long it will continue.

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